

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. In the office action (OA) mailed 12/15/2003, claims 37, 38, 40, 41 and 43-49 were pending. The OA rejected claims 37, 38, 40, 41 and 44-49 and objected to claim 43. In particular, the OA noted that "none of the prior art of record discloses . . . the position of the breakaways disposed on the busses of the wiring panel -- to perform isolation of the contacts on the rough stage of assembling the modular wiring system." (OA pp. 4-5).

Accordingly, claims 37, 38, 40, 41, 44, 46, 47 and 49 have been canceled. Claim 43 has been rewritten in independent form to include many of the limitations of intervening claims 41 and 42 according to the original "Preliminary Amendment" dated 6/6/2002. Further, independent claims 45 and 48 have been amended to include breakaway limitations, and new independent claim 52 also includes a breakaway limitation. New claims 50 and 51 depend from claims 45 and 48, respectively.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 43, 45, 48 and 50-52 are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that this application be passed to issuance. If, however, the Examiner believes that any issue remains that requires clarification, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF GLENN R. SMITH

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